system in different Ministries/ Departments. It has, therefore, been felt that adequate powers should be delegated to the Ministries for incurring expenditure within the budgeted outlays and only in case of demand for additional funds, the matter may *be* referred to the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Finance are in the process of working out the modalities so that Minstrics/ Departments are enabled to implement their plan and non-plan schemes without any delay.

Criteria for approval of plan size of States

1831. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total Plan size from the 1st to the 9th Five Year Plans; Plan-wise and State-wise;

(b) the Plan-wise percentage of increase in succesive Plans, State-wise;

(c) the norms/criteria adopted while approving the Plan size of States;

(d) whether allegations of discrimination against States were aired by the States; and

(e) if so, the highlights of those aHegations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA DEHARESHWAR SAVANOOR): (a) and (b) The originally approved outlays for the State Plans from 1st Five Year Plan to Ninth Five Year Plan and Plan-wise percentage of increase in the successive plans is given in Annexure. [See Appendix 181, Annexure No. 48] (c) to (e) The Plan size of the States are decided in meetings at the level of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commssion with the Chief Ministers of the concerned State through mutual discussion keeping in view the projections of Central Asistance and State's Own Resources. The allocation of-Normal Central Assistance is'made' on-the basis of the formula approved by'"the National Development Council (NDC). Chief Ministers have generally been pleading for higher levels of Central Assistance.

Benefits from Insat-2D

1832. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether, after functioning of the 1NSAT-2D, Indian ships arc likely to improve their navigational and other areas; and

(b) If so, the details of the fields likely to improve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) INSAT-2D satellite launched in Junt 1997 does not carry any Navigation package. However, it carries a mobile communications transponder for use by ships and other vehicles. INSAT-2D carries 18 C & Ext-C band, 3 Ku-banct, 1 S-band and 1 Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) transponder for communication.

The INSAT-2D satellite, therefore, cannot be of direct assistance to Indian ships for navigational purposes. The MSS transponder can be used for voice and data communications from and to ships equipped with appropriate moble terminals and this could be of assistance to navigation in a indirect manner.

Nuclear Thermal Rockets

1833. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

. (a) whether Indian scientists have worked on Nuclear Thermal rockets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by wnen India would be able to launch its own spac^ satellites, like INSAT-2D?